

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

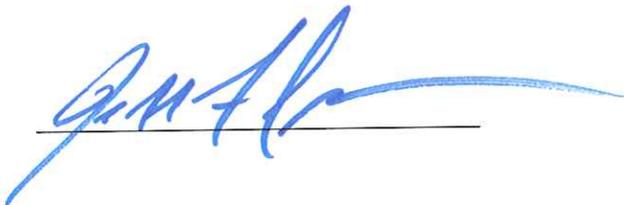
Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

It is our understanding that efforts are underway to move forward the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the "Law of the Sea Treaty"), and we write to register our opposition and respectfully urge you to oppose any efforts toward ratification. This is a treaty that President Reagan refused to sign and that the Senate has wisely declined to ratify for nearly three decades. While the ratification of international treaties is the responsibility of the Senate, spending legislation including funds for responsibilities to which Senate-ratified treaties can bind the U.S., originates in the House of Representatives. Thus, we in the House take great interest in this treaty.

Ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty would subject the U.S. to another international organization which, like the United Nations, would not make safeguarding U.S. interests its priority. Adherence to the treaty would place costly requirements on U.S. businesses and industry seeking to mine the ocean floors that would result in additional costs that U.S. industry would have to bear and in restricted entrepreneurship. With the United States being responsible for paying for 25 percent of the budget of the regulatory regime established by the treaty known as the International Seabed Authority, the treaty would also place an additional and ill-timed burden on U.S. taxpayers. Additionally, the treaty codifies permissible sea-related military activities that all treaty parties are expected to observe. Some of these provisions could result in an erosion of U.S. sovereignty or endanger our military operations at sea.

There is no pressing need for the ratification of this troubled treaty. The United States has operated outside the constructs of the treaty for nearly three decades without detriment to itself or any other nation. As expressed by elements of the nation's armed services, there are some provisions of the treaty that could yield benefits to the United States. However, we remain convinced that the risks to the United States posed by this treaty far outweigh any potential benefits that could be realized by U.S. ratification. We urge you to oppose any efforts to ratify this treaty.

Sincerely,





Thomas Pined

Steve Chaffetz

Doug Lamborn

Jay Wilson

Hans Bentsen

Kent Starks

Paul C. Breaux

Kris Flierl

Steve King

Walter B. Jones

Steve Myrick

Bill Posey

Ja Walsh

David P. Roe

Bill Kingrey

Tim Hudspeth

Steven D

Allen B. West

Paul Sny

Jeff Wynn SL-03

Mike Kelly

McCauley TX-23

Milly R. Tompco

Dein Schmitt

Bill Johnson

Rene Schmitt

A. O. Orr

Tim Walberg

Brad

John Callahan

Tommy

Robert

Laisha Blackburn

Lynn A. White

W. All Air

Lark Kingston

Joseph Pitts

W. TN-04

David J. Riebel

T. McArthur

April 7.

Alan Nunnelee

Andy Hain

David Mervin

M. M. M.

J. J. J.

Diigo

Don R. R.

Michelle Bachmann

Joe A. C.

Bill Hartz
Paul A. Gosar

Mo Brooks

Tony Gowdy
Chip Jansack

R. R.

Ken Goh

Michael T. McCall

Steve Chabot

Mike Coffman

Charles Kettner

Connie Mack

Jeff Miller
Jim Schmidt

Page One

Rep. Jeff Flake (AZ-06)

Rep. Jim Jordan (OH-04)

Page Two

Rep. Tom Price (GA-06)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO-05)

Rep. Dan Burton (IN-05)

Rep. Paul C. Broun (GA-10)

Rep. Steve King (IA-05)

Rep. Sue Myrick (NC-09)

Rep. Joe Walsh (IL-08)

Rep. Phil Gingrey (GA-11)

Rep. Steve Pearce (NM-02)

Rep. Martin Stutzman (IN-03)

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (UT-03)

Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-02)

Rep. Trent Franks (AZ-02)

Rep. Bill Flores (TX-17)

Rep. Walter B. Jones (NC-03)

Rep. Bill Posey (FL-15)

Rep. David P. Roe (TN-01)

Rep. Tim Huelskamp (KS-01)

Rep. Allen West (FL-22)

Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC-03)

Page Three

Rep. Mike Kelly (PA-03)

Rep. Francisco Canseco (TX-23)

Rep. Mike Pompeo (KS-04)

Rep. David Schweikert (AZ-05)

Rep. Bill Johnson (OH-06)

Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01)

Rep. Dennis Ross (FL-12)

Rep. Tim Walberg (MI-07)

Rep. Ben Quayle (AZ-03)

Rep. John Culberson (TX-07)

Rep. Jeff Landry (LA-03)

Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-01)

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)

Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (GA-03)

Rep. Todd Akin (MO-02)

Rep. Jack Kingston (GA-01)

Rep. Joseph Pitts (PA-16)

Rep. Scott DesJarlais (TN-04)

Rep. Reid J. Ribble (WI-08)

Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (MI-11)

Page Four

Rep. Stephen Fincher (TN-08)

Rep. Alan Nunnelee (MS-01)

Rep. Andy Harris (MD-01)

Rep. Donald Manzullo (IL-16)

Rep. Mick Mulvaney (SC-05)

Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr. (TN-02)

Rep. Billy Long (MO-07)

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (CA-46)

Rep. Michele Bachmann (MN-06)

Rep. Tom McClintock (CA-04)

Rep. Bill Huizenga (MI-02)

Rep. Paul A. Gosar, DDS (AZ-01)

Rep. Mo Brooks (AL-05)

Rep. Trey Gowdy (SC-04)

Rep. Chip Cravaack (MN-08)

Rep. Adam Kinzinger (IL-11)

Rep. Kevin Yoder (KS-03)

Rep. Michael T. McCaul (TX-10)

Rep. Steve Chabot (OH-01)

Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-06)

Page Five

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-18)

Rep. Connie Mack (FL-14)

Rep. Jeff Miller (FL-01)

Rep. Jean Schmidt (OH-02)